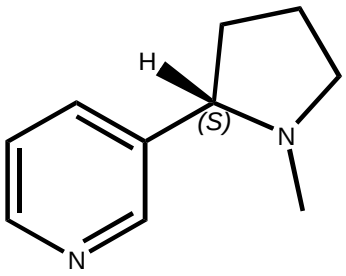
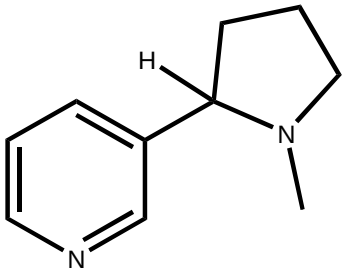
Claims:

1. A method of preparing a compound of Formula I-b, comprising



(I-b)

providing nicotine of Formula I-a as a mixture of the (R)- and (S)-enantiomer



(I-a);

separating enantiomers of the compound of Formula I-a by addition of a chiral O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid, wherein the chiral O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid comprises the L-enantiomer; and obtaining the compound of Formula I-b, wherein the O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid is a mixture of the L-enantiomer and the D-enantiomer, wherein the molar ratio of the L-enantiomer to the D-enantiomer is 90:10 or more and 95:5 or less, wherein the addition of the chiral O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid is carried out with ethanol as solvent.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the chiral O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid is chosen from O,O'-dibenzoyl tartaric acid (DBTA) and O,O'-ditoluoyl tartaric acid (DTTA).

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the O,O'-disubstituted tartaric acid is a mixture of O,O'-dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid (L-DBTA) and O,O'-dibenzoyl-D-tartaric acid (D-DBTA) with a molar ratio of L-DBTA to D-DBTA of 90:10 or more and 95:5 or less.